

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 280836Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6830

S E C R E T SEOUL 3146

EXDIS

REQUEST DEPT PASS SECDEF WASHDC

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR KS US

SUBJ: US INFANTRY COMPANY ON THE DMZ

REF: STATE 96603

1. WE BELIEVE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY FROM DMZ IS DESIRABLE FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW. THE PRIMARY ACTION IS AN INPLACE RELIEF OF ELEMENTS OF ONE COMPANY FROM 2ND US INFANTRY DIV BY ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST ROKA DIV. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US INFANTRY COMPANY FROM THE 500-METER SECTOR OF THE DMZ WOULD PERMIT RETURN OF THE UNIT TO THE PARENT BATTALION AND SHOULD ENHANCE COMMAND AND CONTROL. TRAINING COULD BE IMPROVED. THE DMZ MISSION COULD BE ASSUMED BY ROKA WITH MINIMAL EFFORT. SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION OF THE JSA IS NOT CONTINGENT UPON RETENTION OF THE 500-METER STRIP OF DMZ UNDER US CONTROL.

2. LIKEWISE JULY-AUGUST TIMEFRAME PRESENTS NO MILITARY PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE TRANSFER SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO ROKS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THESE PLANS WITH THEM AND ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE INITIAL RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT MOVE WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE MISINTERPRETED DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS STEP BACKWARD BY U.S. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO WORK OUT PLANS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETAILS WITH ROKS

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IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITIVE MILITARY ASPECTS

OF CHANGE AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN LOWERING UNC PROFILE,
AND TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY.

3. EMBASSY AND UNC REQUEST EARLY AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS AND COORDI-
NATE COMBINED PLANS FOR TRANSFER WITH ROKG POLITICAL AND MILITARY
OFFICIALS, RECOMMEND THAT ACTUAL DATE OF ACTION BE DECIDED HERE.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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NNN

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